

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions of claims in the application.

1. (Currently Amended) A method of producing a transformed plant, ~~having a characteristic selected from (i) improved propagation efficiency of scions for rooting, (ii) improved propagation efficiency and rooting efficiency of scions for rooting, and (iii) improved propagation efficiency of scions for rooting and prolonged vase life of cut flowers, relative to a plant that is not transformed, the method comprising:~~

(a) ~~transforming providing a plant material that is transformed with a heterologous DNA encoding [[a]] DREB1A protein, wherein said DNA is that binds to a stress-responsive element under the control of a stress-responsive rd29A promoter; [[and]]~~

(b) ~~obtaining a scion from a mother plant produced from said plant material; and~~

(c) ~~producing a plant from said scion, such that said plant has a characteristic selected from (i) improved propagation efficiency of scions, (ii) improved propagation efficiency and rooting efficiency of scions, and (iii) improved propagation efficiency of scions and prolonged vase life of cut flowers, relative to a plant that is not transformed with said DNA regenerants from the transformed plant material;~~
~~wherein the stress-responsive promoter is rd29A gene promoter, and the DNA is DREB1A.~~

2.-3. (Cancelled)

4. (Previously Presented) The method of producing a transformed plant of claim 1, wherein the DNA is selected from the group consisting of:

(a) a DNA consisting of the nucleotide sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 1; and

(b) a DNA encoding a protein consisting of the amino acid sequence represented by SEQ ID NO: 2.

5.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Withdrawn) A method for rooting a plant that is capable of adventitious

propagation, comprising:

- (i) providing a cutting from said plant that expresses a heterologous DNA encoding a protein that binds to a stress-responsive element, and then
 - (ii) exposing said cutting to conditions conducive to rooting,
- whereby said cutting develops roots with an efficiency that is greater than a cutting from a non-transformed plant.

12. (Withdrawn) A transformed ornamental plant, comprising a heterologous DNA encoding a protein that binds to a stress-responsive element under the control of a stress-responsive promoter, such that a cutting from said plant has a prolonged vase life relative to a cutting from a non-transformed plant.

13. (Withdrawn) The ornamental plant of claim 1, wherein the ornamental plant is selected from the group consisting of lilies, orchids, chrysanthemums, roses, carnations, petunias, baby's breath, and cyclamens.

14. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA is transformed into the plant by using a vector selected from the group consisting of a virus, a Ti plasmid of *Agrobacterium* and an Ri plasmid of *Agrobacterium*.

15. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the DNA is transformed into the plant by electroporation, polyethylene glycol-mediated transformation, particle gun transformation, microinjection, silicon nitride whisker-mediated transformation, or silicon carbide whisker-mediated transformation.